July 25, 1977

Dear Harold,

Thanks for taking the trouble to send me the copy of your letter to ERDA.

As you know, I don't share your opinions of either the melon experiment or Alvarez' paper. I have seen no reason to even suspect that there was any government support for any of this work before Alvarez started preparing his paper, much less that there was any connection to your FOIA efforts.

There are many instances where your conclusions seem to me to be unwarranted. To take a minor example, it is not at all peculiar for Alvarez to ask for your book, saying that he had not seen it, when it is one of his references. I don't have a very clear recollection of this, but I think I pointed out to him that you had referred to the streaks in the film, and gave him either a page from your book or a quotation. I'm quite sure his original interest, in this specifically or in the case in general, did not stem from your book, but from conversations with various students which were prompted by the general controversy.

You asked, in your letter of 6/6, where in the melon the shots were aimed. I don't know; I don't know whether they were aimed at any particular point. I don't recall whether I kept any record of where on the melon the shots hit. I'm sure I will never be able to convince you that, for the purposes of the experiment we were doing, it doesn't make any difference. I don't think I have any more information on this experiment which will help you.

Sincerely,

Paul

PLH